

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated December 12, 2006, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

The indication of allowability of claims 2-11 is noted with appreciation. In view of this indication, claim 2 has been placed in independent form by incorporation of its subject matter into parent claim 1, claim 2 itself having been canceled, and each of claims 5, 6 and 8, which previously depended directly from claim 1, has been amended to include all of the subject matter of the previous version of claim 1.

All of the other pending claims depend from a respective one of the above-mentioned independent claims.

In view of the indication, in the previous action, that claims 2-11 would be allowable if placed in independent form, it is believed that all of the pending claims, as now amended, are *prima facie* allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the prior art rejection be withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is

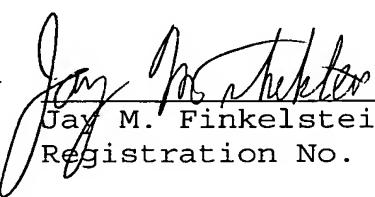
Appln. No. 10/520,940
Amd. dated March 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 12, 2006

invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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